

Coal and Climate



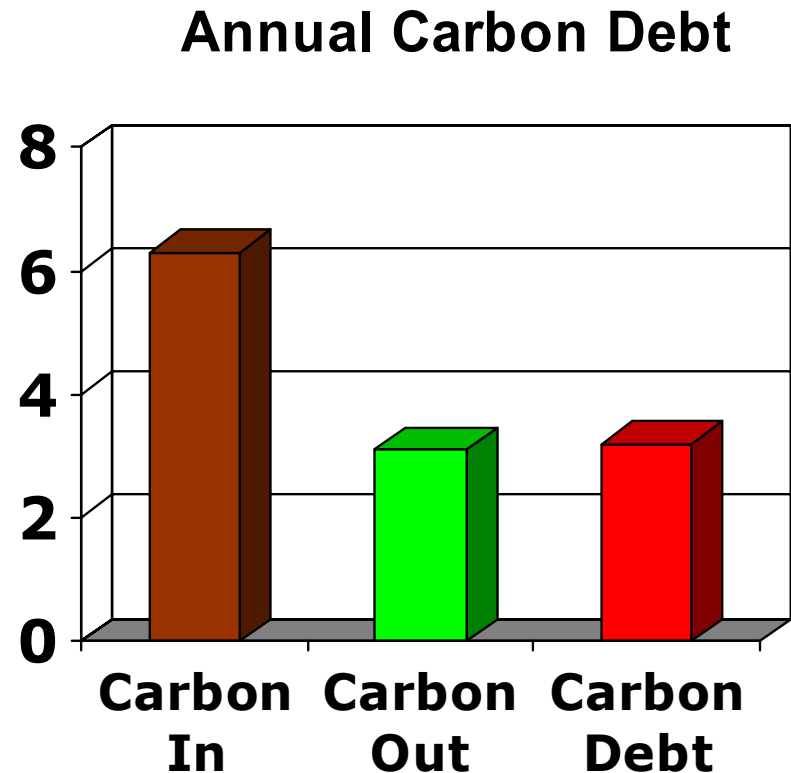
David G. Hawkins, NRDC
July 29, 2004

Global Warming Is Different

- Faucet problems:
 - SO_x, NO_x, lead
 - Pressure builds; Political system responds; Faucet turns; Problem reduced
- Bathtub problem:
 - CO₂
 - Delay consumes finite budget and locks in high-carbon investments. Makes solving problem much harder.

Carbon Deficit Spending— Do the Math

- **Energy carbon emissions in year 2000 = 6.3 billion metric tons**
- **Removal to oceans, soils, trees = 3.1 billion metric tons**
- **Net buildup in air = 3.2 billion metric tons**



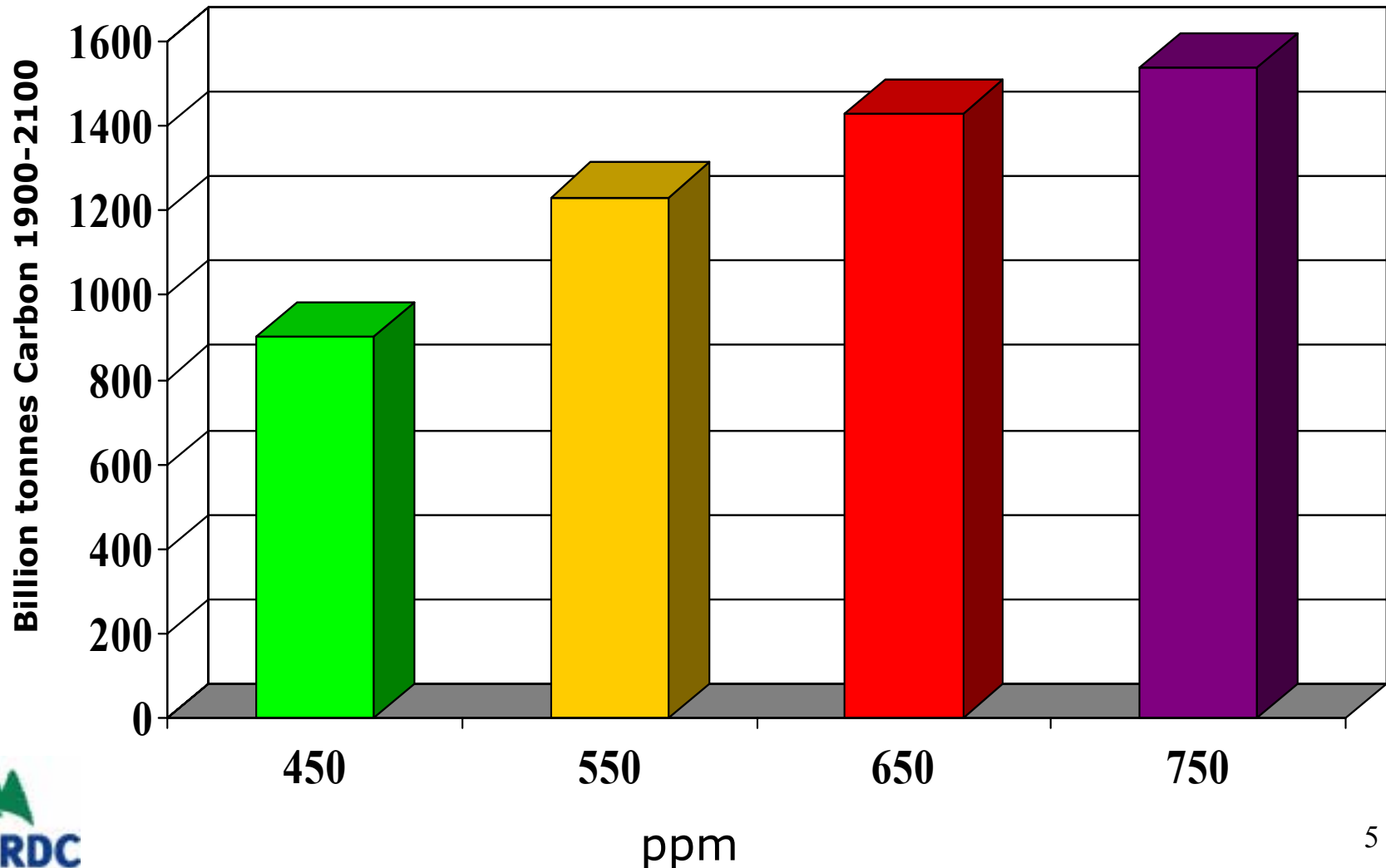
Bush Administration Committed to Stabilization

- “I reaffirm America's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention and it's (sic) central goal, to stabilize atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate.”

**President George W. Bush,
February 14, 2002**

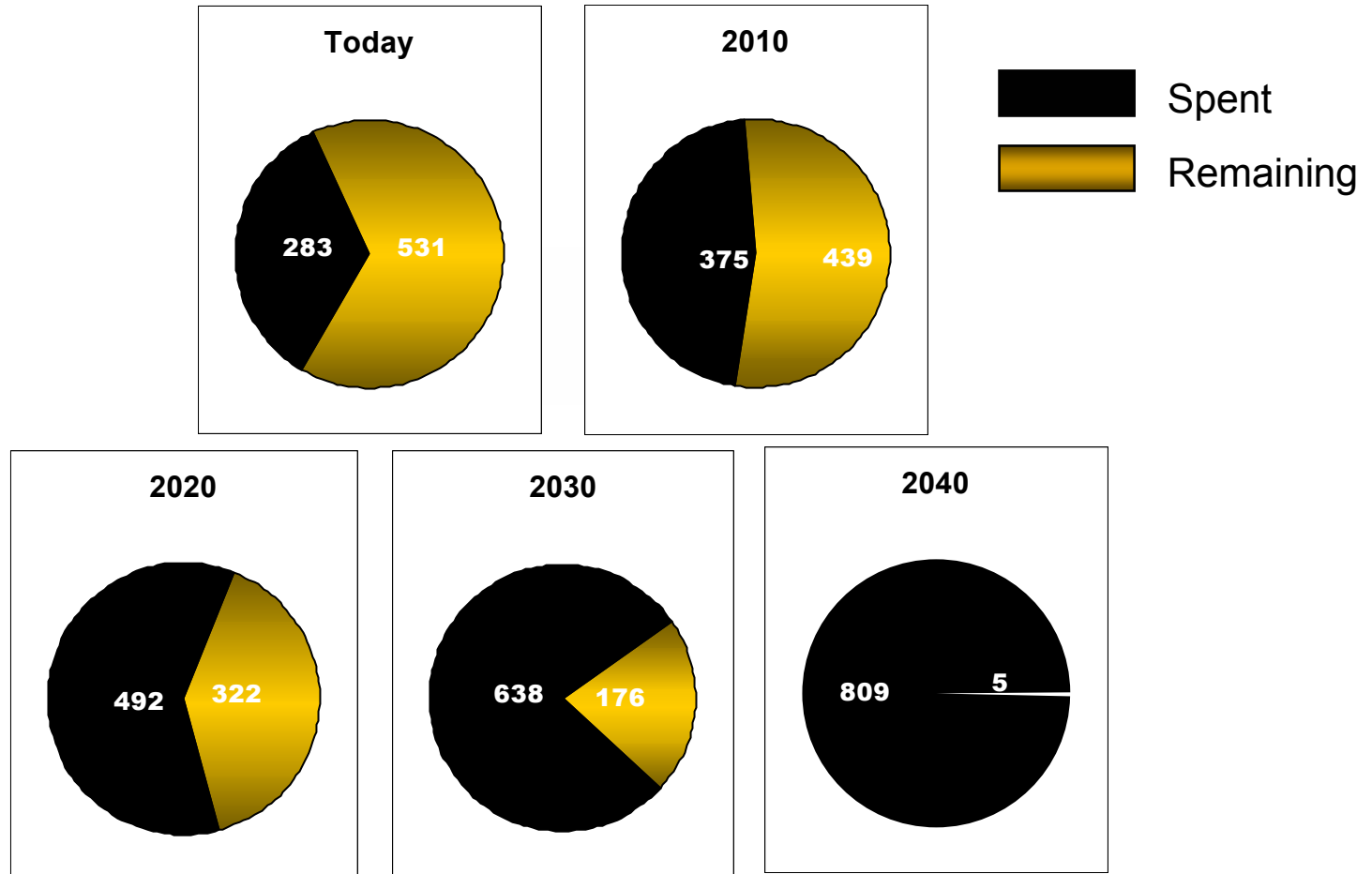


Stabilization Requires a Budget



The Budget is Disappearing

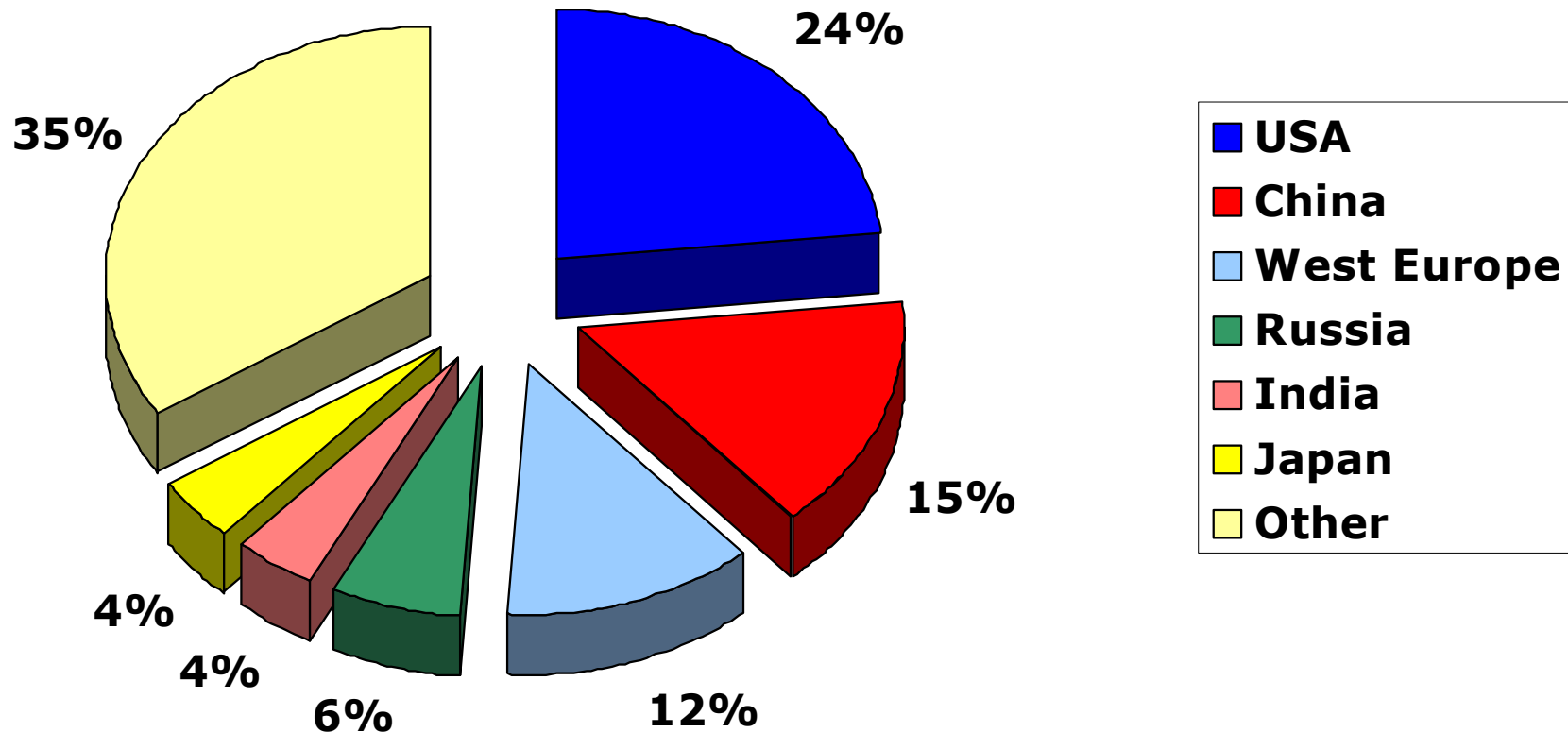
Cumulative carbon emissions 1900-2100 (GtC)



Budget for 450 ppm Stabilization

Biggest Emitters 2000-2025

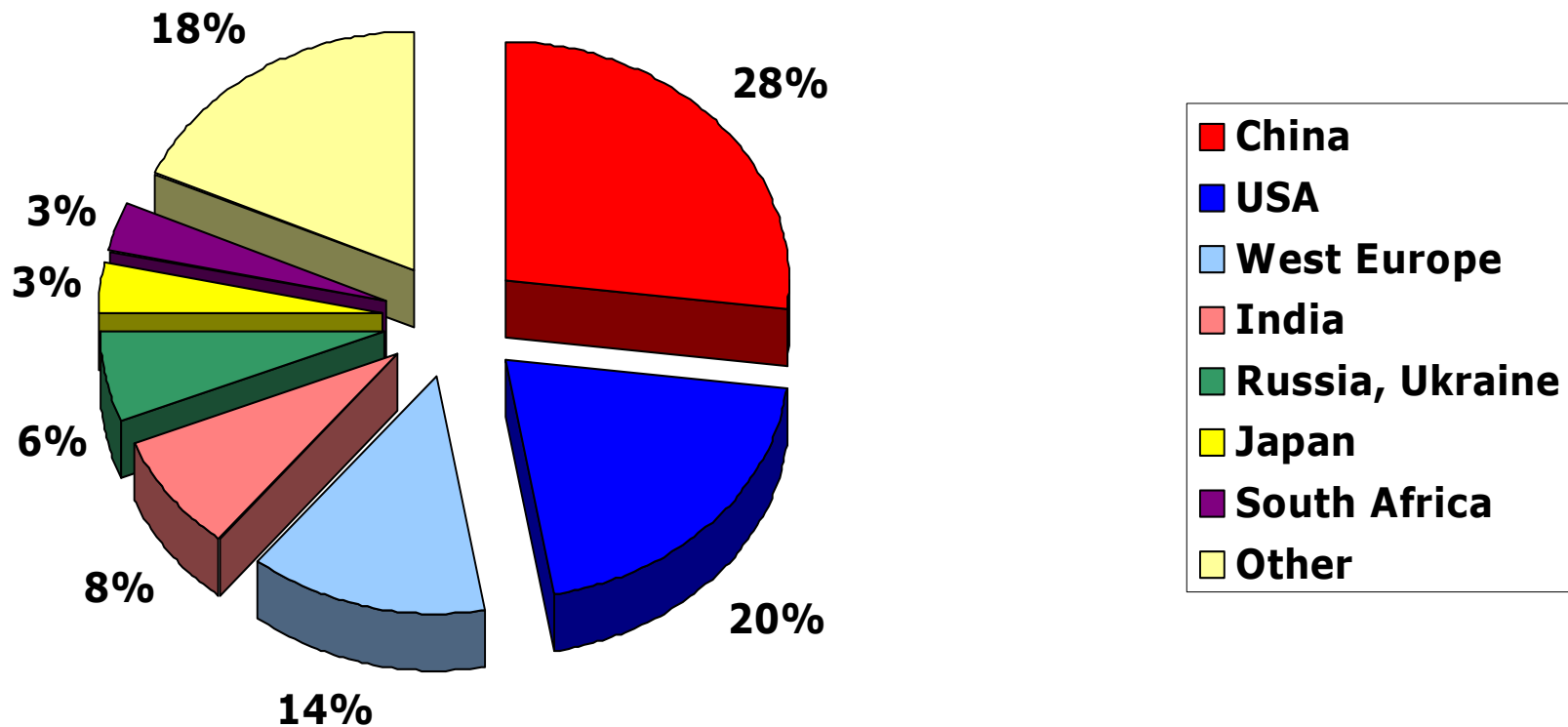
Top five = 66%



Cumulative CO2 Emissions 2000-2025, EIA, IEA 2002

Biggest Coal Consumers 2002

Top Five = 75%

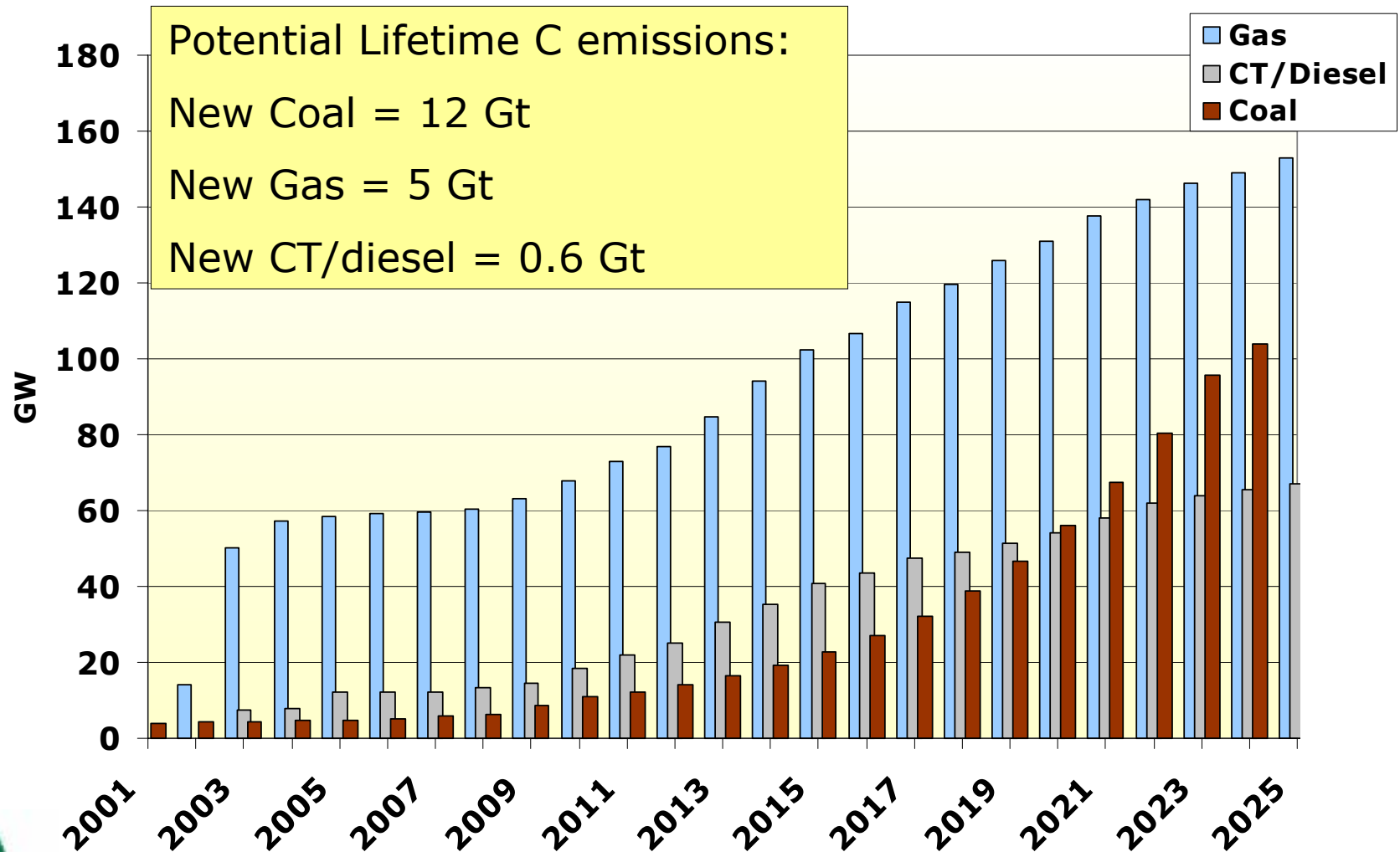


Source: EIA, IEA 2002

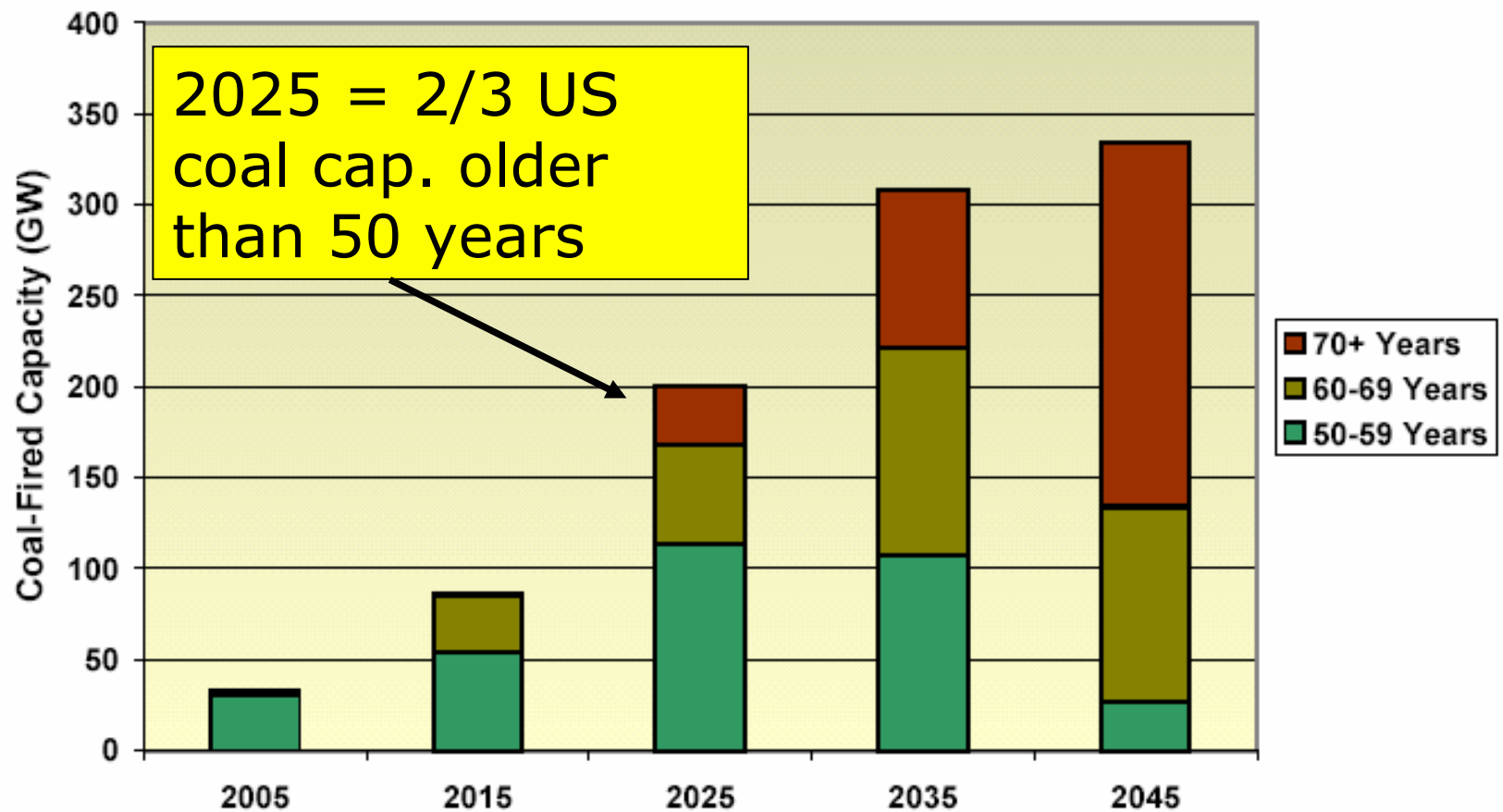
Coal with Carbon Capture and Storage

Will it be ready in time?

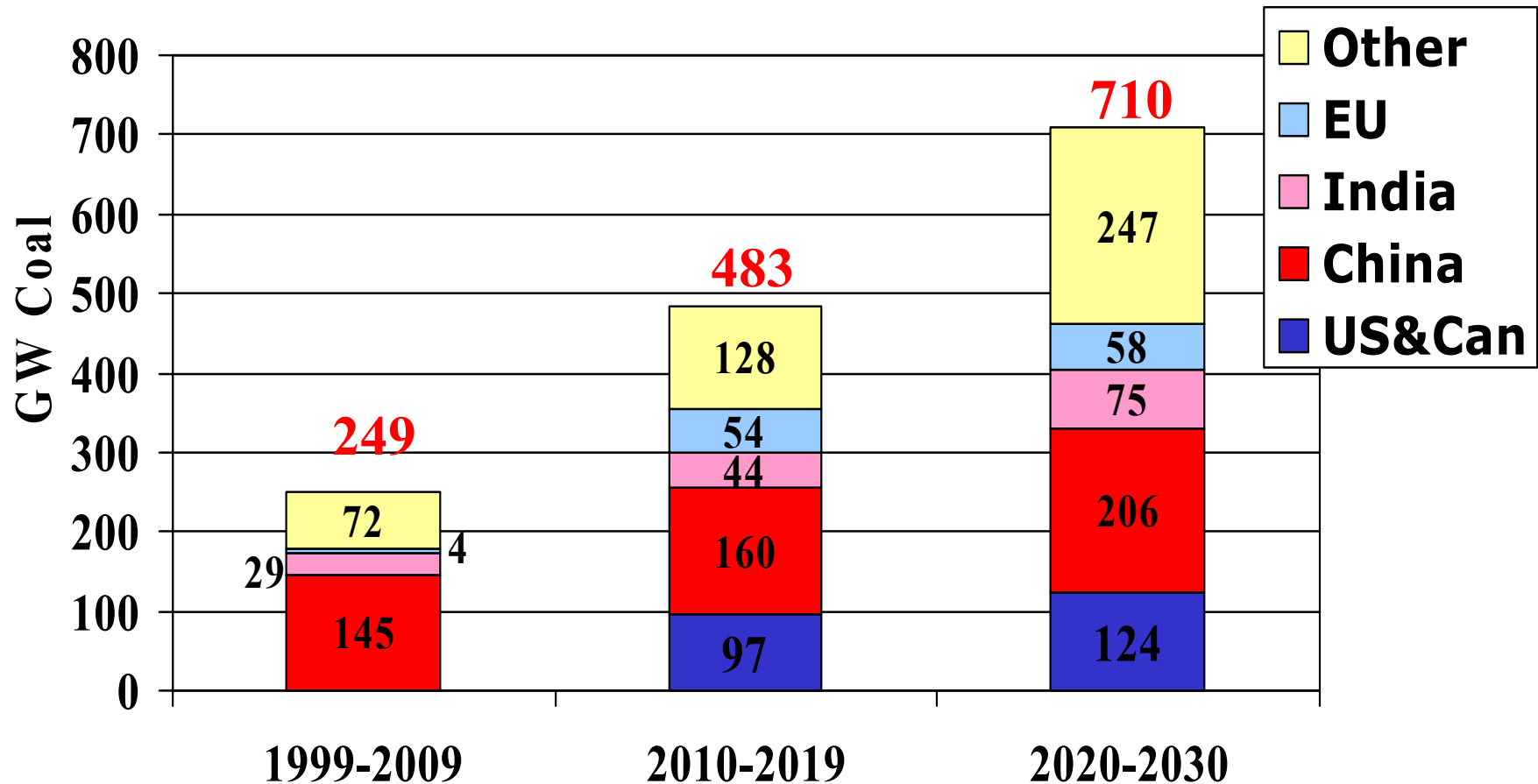
New U.S. Fossil Additions 2001-2025 Cumulative



AGING US COAL PLANTS



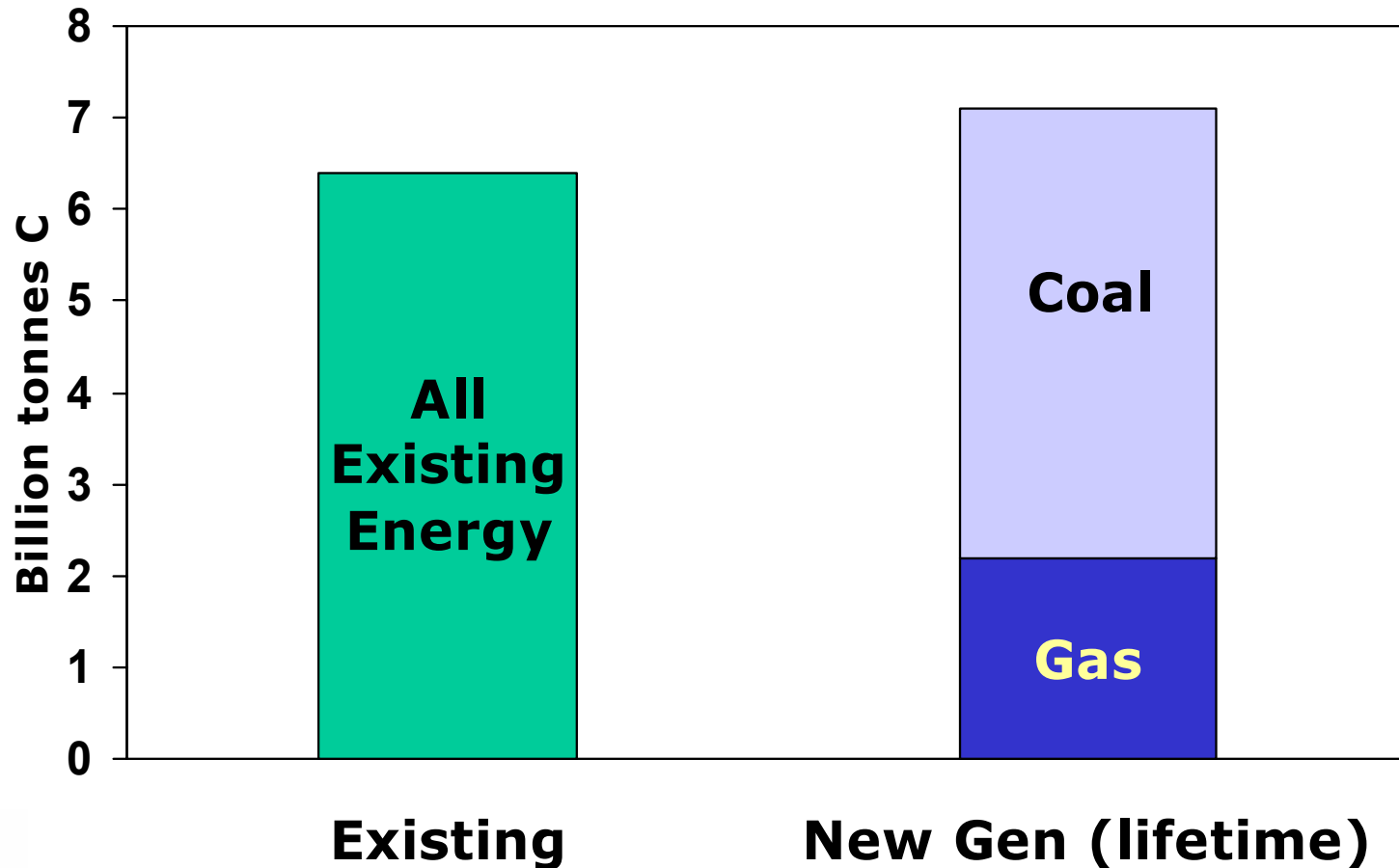
New Global Coal Plants--Catch the Wave or Miss the Wave?



Incremental new coal capacity by decade

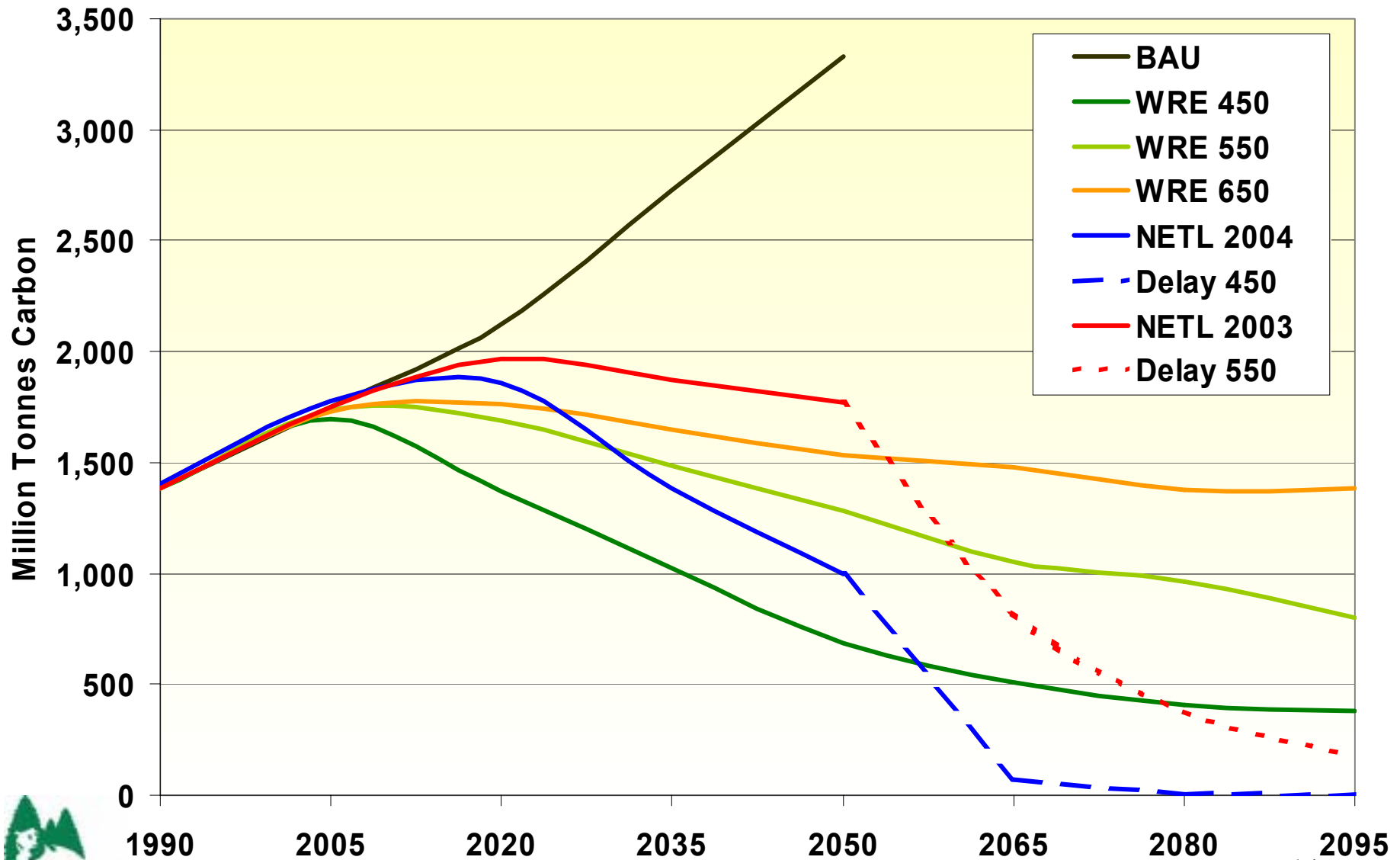
Digging Ourselves Deeper

Annual Budget Burn Rate



Delay Means Disruption

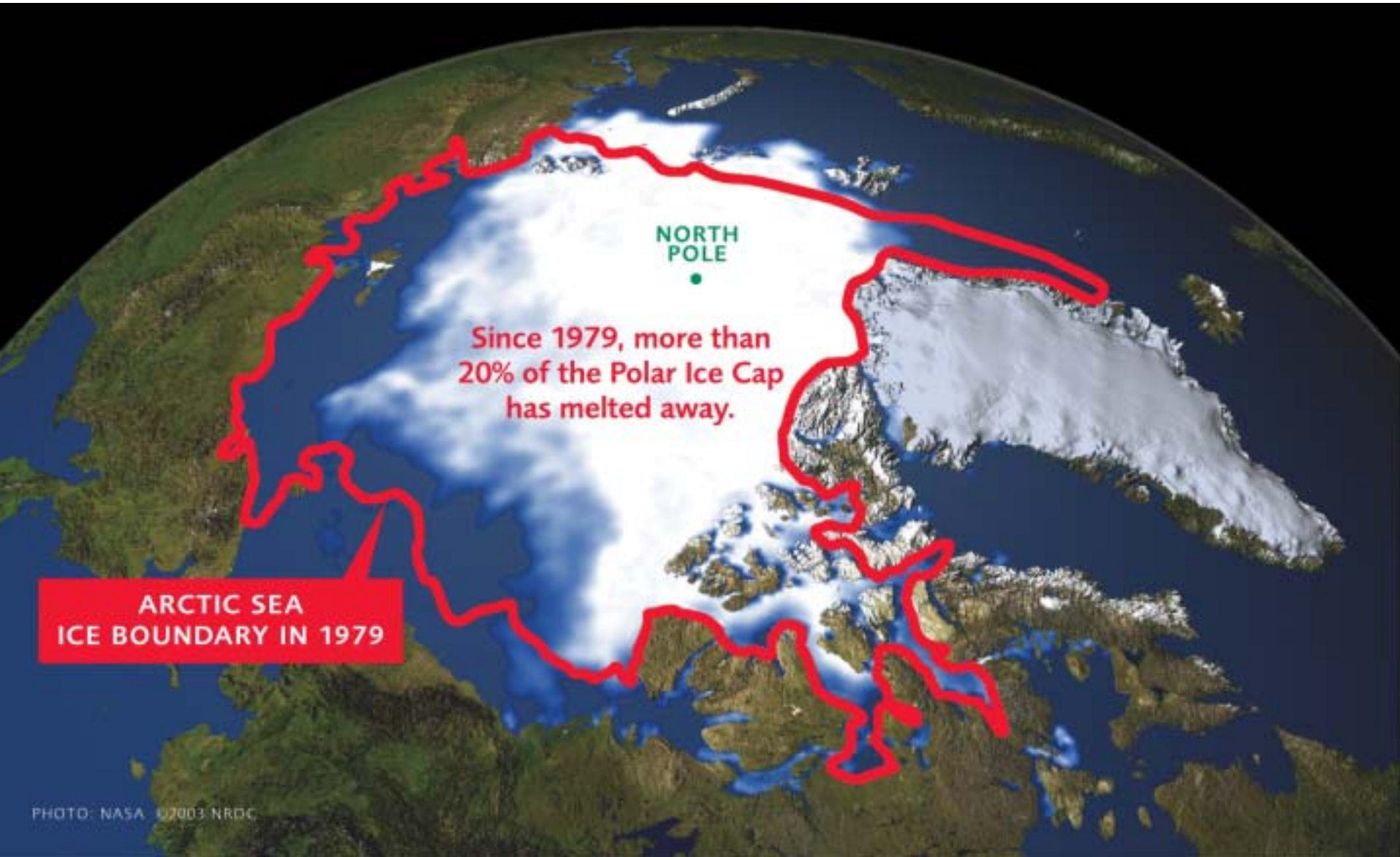
US CO2 Emission Scenarios



A Grand Bargain is Possible

- Clear, binding, long-term path for US GHG emissions
- With major new public investments to promote domestic energy resources that enhance security, produce economic development, and address the threat of global warming:
 - Efficiency—no one can take it away;
 - Wind, solar, biomass—home-grown;
 - Coal, **IF** its carbon is captured and permanently stored underground.

What's Wrong With This Picture?



ARCTIC SEA
ICE BOUNDARY IN 1979

NORTH
POLE

Since 1979, more than
20% of the Polar Ice Cap
has melted away.